

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: RAIL MOVEMENT U.S. GRAIN STOCKS FROM DAKAR TO MALI

REF: (A) DAKAR 5367 (B) BAMAKO 0993, PARA 12

1. AID/W CONCERNED ABOUT DIMINISHED TOTALS OF GRAIN
CURRENTLY BEING SHIPPED ON A WEEKLY BASIS FROM DAKAR TO
MALI AND FAILURE OF SHIPPERS TO INCLUDE ANY PORTION OF U.S.
SORGHUM STOCKS (IN DAKAR) ON THESE RAIL MOVEMENTS TO MALI.

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WM REQUEST PROBLEM OF GRAIN SHIPMENTS BY RAIL BE FULLY

DISCUSSED WITH DROUGHT COORDINATOR DOUKARA AT EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. VIEW 50,000 MT PLUS STORAGE CAPACITY IN KAYES AND NEED TO PRE-POSITION GRAIN THERE FOR OUTLYING AREAS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DOUKARA WOULD CONSIDER INCREASING RAIL TOTALS TO KAYES.

3. AS MISSION AWARE (REFTEL B) MINISTER DOUKARA, IN PARTIAL SUPPORT OF HIS REQUEST FOR RECENT THREE MILLION DOLLAR U.S. ARLIFT, POINTED TO DONORS' INABILITY TO HAVE SUFFICIENT GRAIN QUANTITIES DELIVERED TO MALI OVER NOVEMBER 1973-APRIL 1974 PERIOD THEREBY FORECLOSING POSSIBILITY OF SIGNIFICANT PRE-POSITIONING IN OUTLYING AREAS OF COUNTRY PRIOR TO 1974 RAINS.

4. FORTUNATELY, DONORS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE FASTER THIS YEAR AND WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT GRAIN STOCKS ON-HAND IN DAKAR OVER NEXT TWELVE MONTHS TO PERMIT A MAXIMUM WEEKLY DRAW-DOWN FOR RAIL SHIPMENT TO MALI. (FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, WE ARE USING 4,000 MT PER WEEK FOR RAIL-LINE IN EXPECTATION THIS AVERAGE CAN BE MAINTAINED IF TWO GOVERNMENTS ASSIGN REQUIRED PRIORITY).

5. DONORS INTEND, OF COURSE, TO UTILIZE OTHER SHIPPING ROUTES TO MALI DURING UP-COMING FOOD SUPPLY CAMPAIGN. SINCE SHIPPING COSTS OVER THESE ROUTES ARE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN RAIL-LINE, HOWEVER, IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO HAVE RAIL CAPACITY FULLY EXPLOITED PARTICULARLY IN SUPPLYING NEEDS OF WESTERN-MOST AREA OF MALI.

6. WE TRUST YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH DOUKARA WILL RESULT IN A GRADUAL (I.E. WEEKLY) REDUCTION OF U.S. SORGHUM STOCKS IN DAKAR DESTINED FOR MALI. WE ARE FINDING IT DIFFICULT HERE TO EXPLAIN WHY THERE HAS BEEN NO EVACUATION OF THESE STOCKS TO MALI SINCE MID-AUGUST.

DECONTROL: 10/07/75. KISSINGER

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